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MORNING PAPERS.

SATURDAY October 23rd, 1948.

"The American Ambassador in Egypt advocates partition and says that Arab approval of partition would be beneficial to the Arabs".

Under the above heading, Al Misri's reporter writes: "I talked to His Excellency Mr Stanton Griffis, America's Ambassador in Egypt, about the Palestinian problem. His Excellency said to me: 'In my opinion, the proper partition of Palestine would be beneficial to the Arab world culturally and economically. I mean by the word "proper" that partition should be practical and reasonable.'

"Do you believe that this adjective applies to Count Bernadotte's report?", I asked him. 'Most certainly', replied His Excellency who added that he believed that the United Nations would be justified in imposing any solution in the event of the Arabs and Jews failing to reach a settlement or agreement among themselves.

"I believe', continued His Excellency 'that such an agreement would be beneficial to the Arabs, because the Arab world would then enter into a phase of great development'.

"Does this mean that the U.S.A. is prepared to take an effective part in bringing about this development?", I asked.

"I am certain of this', replied His Excellency who reflected for a moment before he added: 'Let me tell you that the world will never progress unless peace reigns. You may be sure that never in history has a nation been able to benefit from a war'.

"When I asked him his opinion about the All-Palestine Arab Government, he said: 'I do not see the object or aim for which this government was formed. Nor am I able to see what it is going to do. I can only say that its formation does not make things easy. What I cannot understand is why such a government was formed when seven Arab countries are already working for the very same end for which this government was formed'.

"When I pointed out to him that the partition of Palestine had not been effected as yet, and that British

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withdrawal from Palestine after their mandate ended had created a vacuum which had to be filled by the Arabs of Palestine, he replied: 'I do not wish to enter into details concerning this question, but I do not want you to think that I disapprove of this government. All I can say in this connection is that the formation of the All-Palestine government does not solve anything. I am not attacking the government by saying so, for the Arabs of Palestine have the right to have a government of their own provided such a government is parliamentary'.

"His Excellency then spoke about the question of refugees. He said that he devoted most of his time to the Arab refugees problem and to trying to find a solution to it. The U.S. representative at the United Nation can deal with the political aspect of the problem, Mr Griffis said.

"With regard to the refugees in Syria and Lebanon, His Excellency said that they were in a bad state and that he estimated the number of refugees to be approximately half a million. He then added: 'The local government either cannot or does not wish to solve this problem because it is indeed a heavy burden. Unless 'somebody' else other than these governments hasten to take decisive and prompt action, the state of these refugees will become hopeless. By 'somebody else' I mean obviously the United Nations'.

"I asked His Excellency to explain to me the reason for the small interest shown in Count Bernadotte's appeal for aid to these refugees. His Excellency replied: 'The interest of the world in the big political issues and its fear of their outcome has overshadowed the Palestinian problem. No doubt it is difficult to concentrate world interest on one problem when the whole world is 'sick' and when such problems as the Chinese refugees, emigration in Poland and Germany, and Berlin, exist'.

"The Ambassador does not think that the Arabs are to blame for the lack of knowledge displayed by the world concerning the Arab refugees problem. This lack of knowledge is due in fact to the preoccupation of the whole world of the dangers which threaten peace.

"The American Ambassador does not think that the Palestinian question constitutes a 'burden' on world peace notwithstanding the fact that it is put on the United Nations' agenda under no less than three headings.

"In reply to a question I put to him concerning the embargo on arms the exportation of arms to the Arabs and Jews which was imposed by the United Nations as from the beginning of May 15th, His Excellency said that this decision was sufficient guarantee that a state which might seriously threaten world peace might not arise. 'What I mean to say is that the Palestinian problem threatens world peace only to a lesser degree than other major problems'.

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Al Misri's comment.

Al Misri comments on the story by saying: "We printed this interview because it is useful that Egypt and the Arabs should be acquainted with the opinion of this man whom we thought when he arrived in Egypt recently to be our friend and to be sincerely desirous of understanding things as they really are. By professing this opinion he showed that he holds the same view as that of his Chief Truman and his American government which is subjected to Jewish pressure in the Presidential elections.

"Had this Ambassador based his opinion regarding Palestine on truth and justice, or had he based it on America's interest as seen by the experts of the State Department and the Department of War, he would not have said what he did say. On the contrary, he would have stated quite frankly that the Arabs are right.

"The opinion of the American Ambassador in Egypt makes his mission here difficult and makes of him a loud-speaker for Zionist propaganda. We are indeed sorry that this Ambassador should begin his diplomatic life in Egypt by statements which conflict with diplomatic etiquette. He knows that Egypt opposes partition even by the blood of her sons and that she has fought battles for the sake of offsetting the conspiracy of the Zionists. To make these statements which are undoubtedly contrary to the principle of courtesousness towards Egypt.

Arab Affairs and other stories
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Pertaining to Palestine.

Akhbar El Yom claims that all Egyptian lines in Palestine are intact, that telephone and telegraph communications between Cairo and Gaza and Majdol are functioning as usual, that Bershoba is still in Egyptian hands, that the Egyptians suffered one casualty for each fifty Jewish casualties during the recent operations, that only four Egyptian Officers were killed since October 16th, and that weapons of Russian make have been captured.

Akhbar El Yom criticises the Arab countries for failing to aid Egypt.

Under the headline: "Cleverness as they understand it", Akhbar El Yom, the pro-government weekly, writes: "The news concerning the decision of the Security Council that the Arabs and Jews should cease fire is the top story of the day. The top story of the day and the morrow, however, is that the Jews will show no respect for this decision and that they will renew their attack on Egyptian army positions.

"The Security Council will as usual shut its eyes to renewed Jewish aggression and only when the Egyptians successfully repulse Jewish attacks, will the Council meet

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At a press conference held by the P.M. on October 21st, says Akhbar El Yom, Nokrashi Pasha told the press that his government did not agree to the internment of Jews without discrimination as such action would be tantamount to admission by Egypt that there was such a thing as Israel. Egypt, added the Prime Minister, wanted to prove to the world that the Jews can live in Arab countries safely and happily as minorities. He would, however, order the arrest of any Jew or any body of any religion or nationality who is suspected of pro-Zionist activities.
